



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
October 24, 2003**

**Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney**

**Contact: Joseph N. Laplante
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1562 x 230**

“OPERATION BEANTOWN”

**MOTHER AND 10th MEMBER OF MANCHESTER CRACK RING, SENTENCED ON
FEDERAL CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Marleena “Ma Dukes” RICE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. State Police Colonel Gary Sloper, and Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka announced that **Marleena “Ma Dukes” RICE**, date of birth, August 21, 1962, was sentenced on September 23, 2003 on crack cocaine distribution charges.

The U.S. District Court in Concord imposed a sentence of 12 months imprisonment, followed by a 2-year period of supervised release during which her behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

During January, 2003, RICE entered a guilty plea to an information alleging that she distributed cocaine base, also known as “crack cocaine,” in Manchester during August, 2002.

RICE was arrested by Manchester and New Hampshire State Police officers on October 15, 2002, along with ten others including her sons, Raheem “Ruckus” Rice and Garry Rice, as part of their joint “Operation Beantown” investigation, so named because of its focus on alleged Boston-based drug traffickers that had relocated to Manchester. Eight others have been sentenced in connection with the investigation, including:

- Raheem “Ruckus” RICE (90 months);
- Michael “Mook” Martin (65 months);
- Antwone “Sticks” Cousins (56 months);
- Taranne “Black” Tillis (46 months);
- Roderick “Shawn” Echols (46 months);
- Maria Miranda (37 months);

— more —

- Garry Rice (35 months);
- Tarrell Burris (30 months); and
- Justin “Styles” Foote (12 months).

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, “This case demonstrates our office’s commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level crack dealers operating in Manchester and New Hampshire’s other larger cities. Operation Beantown is a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in combating the disastrous impact of crack cocaine on our urban neighborhoods and their residents. This office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts.”

The conviction resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Manchester Police Department’s Special Investigations Unit and the N.H. State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit.

The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“New England OCDEF”).